

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 SP-02  
STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /050 W  
-----040534Z 058173 /12

R 011700Z JUN 77  
FM AMCONSUL MILAN  
TO AMEMBASSY ROME  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5410

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, PINT, IT  
SUBJECT: CABLE FROM CREMONA

REFS: A) 77 MILAN 080 B) 76 MILAN 0783 C) 75 MILAN 1867

1. SUMMARY. CREMONA IS RICH AGRICULTURAL PROVINCE WHERE SOCIALIST-COMMUNIST LOCAL ADMINISTRATION IS NOT DOING BADLY BUT WHERE CATHOLIC, DC FORCES, TOO, ARE BESTIRRING THEMSELVES TO COUNT COUNTERATTACK, ABOVE ALL ON CULTURAL LEVEL. END SUMMARY.

2. EXECUTIVE OFFICER VISITED CREMONA MAY 31 AND SPOKE WITH MAYOR, CISL PROVINCIAL SECRETARY, DC PROVINCIAL SECRETARY, PSI PROVINCIAL AND

CITY SECRETARIES, LOCAL NEWSPAPER EDITOR, AND HEAD OF AMOCO REFINERY.

3. ALTHOUGH EVEN PERENIALLY MALCONTENTED SOCIALISTS ADMIT CREMONA ECONOMIC SITUATION GOOD, ONE SORE POINT IS EC-INFLUENCED MILK PRICES. LOCAL DAIRY FARMS, WHICH ARE BEST IN ITALY AND ACCOUNT FOR SIX PER CENT OF MILK PRODUCED HERE, SIMPLY CANNOT COMPETE WITH GERMAN AND OTHER EC COUNTERPARTS ON PRICE, LEADING EVEN SOME LARGE ITALIAN CONSUMERS, E.G. CHEESEMAKERS, TO BUY FOREIGN MILK. CREMONA FARMERS ARE SEEKING RELIEF FROM ED IN FORM OF END TO CASH PREMIUMS HERE FOR  
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COWS SLAUGHTERED, PROVISION WHICH ITALIANS WANT RETAINED, HOWEVER, FOR EC PARTNERS. ITALIAN REASONING IS THAT EUROPEAN OVERPRODUCTION OF MILK, WHICH EC WANTS TO DISCOURAGE, IS NORTHERN EUROPEAN PROBLEM FOR WHICH ITALY SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY. INTERESTINGLY, THIS FAIRLY SERIOUS FLY IN LOCAL OINTMENT HAS NOT DIMMED ENTHUSIASM FOR EUROPEAN UNITY, WHICH REMAINS HIGH.

4. POLITICALLY, CREMONA IS LARGELY FREE OF DRAMATIC PROBLEMS LIKE PUBLIC VIOLENCE AND WIDESPREAD YOUTHFUL UNEMPLOYMENT. AND PCI-PSI CITY ADMINISTRATION, JOINED RECENTLY BY MINISCULE REPUBLICANS, APPEARS

TO BE COPING WITH LOCAL PROBLEMS AT LEAST AS EFFICIENTLY AS DID FORMER

DC-PSI GOVERNMENT. CONSERVATIVE LOCAL NEWSPAPER EDITOR SAID BALANCE SHEET SHOWS TWO ABOUT EQUAL. DIRECTOR OF AMOCO REFINERY, EMPLOYER OF 400 AND BY FAR CREMONA'S LARGEST INDUSTRY, WAS OF SAME VIEW. HE ADDED THAT CITY GOVERNMENT HAS LATELY TAKEN MUCH MORE CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD AMOCO. REASONS APPEAR TO BE BOTH EMBARRASSMENT CITY SUFFERED WHEN AMOCO CLAIMED PUBLICLY IT HAD LOST CHANCES TO INVEST IN CREMONA BECAUSE OF CITY OBSTRUCTIONISM AS WELL AS APPARENT PCI DECISION FROM ON HIGH TO BE MORE COOPERATIVE. DIRECTOR SAID THAT, FOR LAST SEVERAL MONTHS, AMOCO HAS HAD NO BETTER FRIENDS THAN COMMUNISTS IN CREMONA.

5. VARIOUS CATHOLICS AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, MEANWHILE, ARE BUSILY REPRESENTING OPPOSITION, NOT ONLY POINTING OUT CHINKS IN LEFTIST ARMOR--MAYOR CHARGES THAT DC IS UNFAIRLY EXPLOITING HIS ADMINISTRATION' TROUBLES--BUT TAKING MORE POSITIVE STEPS AS WELL. CISL PROVINCIAL SECRETARY, FOR EXAMPLE, HEADS CATHOLIC CULTURAL CLUB (CIRCOLO FODRI) WHICH BOASTS OVER 500 MEMBERS, EXPENSIVELY OUTFITTED HEADQUARTERS, AND IMPRESSIVE CULTURAL AND POLITICAL PROGRAM THAT HAS FEATURED NATIONAL FIGURES. CLUB IS DESCRIBED AS SERIOUS AND FAIRLY SUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO RIVAL LEFTIST CULTURAL HEGEMONY LOCALLY.

6. ANOTHER INITIATIVE IN SAME DIRECTION IS CREMONA'S FIRST PRIVATE RADIO STATION, OWNED BY POLITICALLY MODERATE LOCAL PAPER AND BROADCASTING FROM MORNING UNTIL 7:00 PM. PAPER ITSELF IS ACTIVE SUPPORTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF NON-LEFTIST CULTURAL ACTIVITIES LIKE THOSE OF CIRCOLO FODRI AND LOCAL CHURCH PARISHES.

7. CHURCH TOO, APPEARS TO BE MOVING. NEWSPAPER EDITOR SAID CHURCH PLAYING MORE ACTIVE PUBLIC ROLE RECENTLY WHICH HE IS ENCOURAGING. AMOCO MANAGER SAID PARISH-SPONSORED SPORTS AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS ARE EXTENSIVE AND PROVIDE INVALUABLE COUNTERWEIGHT TO LEFTIST INFLUENCE.

8. AS PCI CONTINUES STOLID MARCH FORWARD AND DC-CATHOLIC SIDE REVIVIFIES, CREMONA SOCIALISTS, LACKING FIRST-RATE LEADERS, TAKE REFUGE IN INVOLUTED RHETORIC THAT INCREASINGLY CHARACTERIZES PARTY STYLE. BOTH MAYOR AND PARTY SECRETARIES COMPLAINED FEEBLY THAT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CAN DO NOTHING UNTIL ALL PARTIES SUPPORT IT, AND SECRETARIES WAXED INDIGNANT OVER FAVORITE PSI BUGBEAR, INCOME TAX INEQUITIES, NOT HESITATING TO CALL THEM WORSE NOW THAN BEFORE 1975 REFORM. BUT ON CONSTRUCTIVE, CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS, ALL WERE SHORT. IMPRESSIVE, FORTYISH DC PROVINCIAL SECRETARY SAID DC HAS THROWN UP ITS HANDS WITH PSI AND PREFERS DEALING WITH COMMUNISTS. AMOCO MANAGER SAID SOCIALISTS TOO IDEALISTIC, LIKENING THEIR UTILITY TO THAT OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR

IN MILITARY UNIT.

9. CONCERNING NATIONAL SCENE, DC SECRETARY SAID AGREEMENT ON SPECIFIC GOVERNMENT PROGRAM NOW BEING CONCLUDED AMONG PARTIES IN ROME IS ESSEN-

TIAL. WHETHER THIS WOULD LEAD TO STILL FURTHER PCI INROADS WAS UP TO VOTERS, WHO WOULD BE CALLED UPON TO RENDER JUDGEMENT INITIALLY IN 1978 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS AND PROBABLY THEN IN EARLY NATIONAL ELECTIONS. PSI REPS, ON OTHER HAND WERE UNHAPPY AT WHAT THEY SAW AS PCI-DC COLLUSION TO EXCLUSION OF SOCIALISTS. SECRET DC-PCI AGREEMENT, THEY REASONED, MUST LIE BEHIND BARE-BONES RENDITION THAT REACHED NEWSPAPERS.

1.0 CREMONA, IN SUM, APPEARS TO BE PLACE WHERE DC AND COMMUNISTS ARE ENGAGED IN GENTLEMANLY COMPETITION WHILE SOCIALISTS GRADUALLY SHRINK FROM SIGHT. NEW ELEMENT IS AGGRESSIVENESS OF CATHOLICS AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS ON SOCIAL AND CULTURAL SIDE. IT IS COMMONLY ACCEPTED THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ITALIAN LEFT HAS CULTURAL AND PROPAGANDA FIELD PRETTY MUCH TO ITSELF IN ITALY. IN CREMONS, OTHER SIDE IS TRYING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. FINA

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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009